



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 42

February Session, 2018

House Bill No. 5236

House of Representatives, March 26, 2018

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING BUS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR VETERANS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2018*) Any person who is a
2 veteran, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the general
3 statutes, shall be exempt from payment of the lawful charge for state-
4 owned or controlled bus public transportation service, provided such
5 person presents to the fare inspector, as defined in section 13b-2 of the
6 general statutes, or the driver of such bus, as applicable, a motor
7 vehicle operator's license or identity card that indicates such person's
8 status as a veteran in accordance with subsection (e) of section 14-36h
9 of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2018</i>	New section
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VA

Joint Favorable

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 19 \$	FY 20 \$
Transportation, Dept.	TF - Revenue Loss	up to \$1.5 million	up to \$1.5 million

Note: TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill exempts veterans from paying the \$1.75 fee to ride on state owned buses. This has the potential to result in a significant revenue loss to the Special Transportation Fund if every veteran who is eligible under the bill took advantage of the program, which is not anticipated.

The bill results in an estimated revenue loss of up to \$1.5 million annually to the Special Transportation Fund. As the number of veterans who currently ride the bus is unknown, this estimate assumes the veterans who obtain a bus ticket is approximately 2.6% of the total number of passenger trips statewide¹ which will result in the fiscal impact identified above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future dependent on the number of veterans.

¹ There are currently 185,000 veterans eligible under the definition of the bill which represents 5.2% of the Connecticut population. In FY 17 there was a total of 39,561,429 passenger rides on CT buses.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 5236*****AN ACT CONCERNING BUS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR VETERANS.*****SUMMARY**

This bill exempts veterans from paying the fee to ride on state-owned or -controlled public bus transportation services, provided they present to the fare inspector or bus driver, as applicable, a driver's license or identity card indicating their status as veterans.

A veteran is anyone honorably discharged from or released under honorable conditions from active service in the armed forces (CGS § 27-103(a)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2018

COMMITTEE ACTION

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)